DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 461 686 UD 032 305

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TITLE	A Catalyst for Educational Change: Promoting the Involvement of Working Parents in Their Children's Education. Work-Family Policy Paper Series.
INSTITUTION	Boston Univ., MA. Center on Work and Family.
SPONS AGENCY	Lilly (Eli) and Co., Indianapolis, IN.
PUB DATE	1997-00-00
NOTE	44p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Center for Work & Family, Boston College, Carroll School of Management, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467 ($50). Tel: 617-552-2844; Fax: 617-552-2859; Web site: http://www.bc.edu/cwf.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Achievement; *Educational Change; Educational Policy; Elementary Secondary Education; *Employed Parents; Parent Attitudes; *Parent Participation; Parent School Relationship; Partnerships in Education; Public Schools; *School Business Relationship; Urban Schools
IDENTIFIERS	*Stakeholders

ABSTRACT

Corporations have long expressed concern about the inadequate skills possessed by workforce entrants, and communities across the country have discovered that parent involvement is a key ingredient for the academic achievement of individual children and the overall quality of educational systems. However, many working people have not benefited from efforts to increase parent involvement. Increasing the involvement of working parents has the potential to make a huge impact on schools, businesses, and families. Parent involvement may be the catalyst for getting schools, businesses, and families to work together for educational improvement. Chapter I of this policy paper provides background information about the importance of parent involvement. Chapter II focuses on the significance of involving the three major stakeholder groups in collaborative efforts. Chapter III describes some of the innovative and successful steps that businesses, schools, and parents have taken to promote parent involvement. In Chapter IV, background information about the web of public education policies established at federal, state, and local levels is presented. Chapter V presents some conclusions about parent involvement. An "Employer Inventory for Action" and "Collaborative Strategies for Parent Involvement" are included in a pocket attached to the inside back cover. A list of 16 resource organizations is attached. (Contains 4 tables and 81 references.) (SLD)

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